

Tribe Scaritini

This tribe is characterised by the following combination of characters

- long, often cylindrical appearance
- mesothorax is fully visible from above between the pronotum and elytra forming a narrowed peduncle
- short legs, with the front ones adapted for digging
- often robust mandibles, lacking bristles on the outer surface
- base of the antennae covered by an extension of the frons
- male tarsi not broadened (in European species)

Reference

Adapted from Lindroth, C.H. (1974) Coleoptera, Carabidae. Handbooks for the identification of British insects, volume 4, part 2. London: Royal Entomological Society.

Checklist

From the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff

Genus *Clivina* Latreille, 1802

collaris (Herbst, 1784)

fossor (Linnaeus, 1758)

Genus *Dyschirius* Bonelli, 1810

aeneus (Dejean, 1825)

angustatus (Ahrens, 1830)

extensus Putzeys, 1846

globosus (Herbst, 1784)

impunctipennis Dawson, 1854

luedersi Wagner, 1915

nitidus (Dejean, 1825)

obscurus (Gyllenhal, 1827)

politus (Dejean, 1825)

salinus Schaum, 1843

thoracicus (Rossi, 1790)

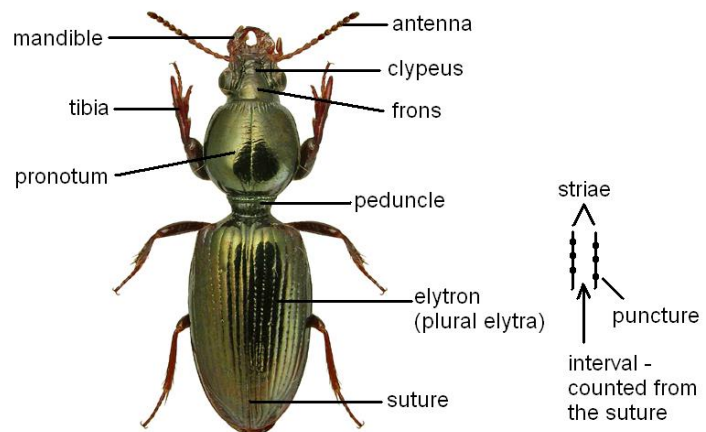


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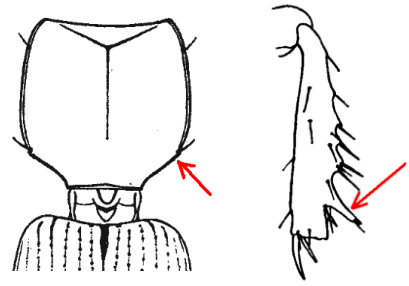


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- 1 Lateral border of pronotum distinct between the posterior seta and the peduncle. Middle tibia with strong spine just short of the tip. Keel along the side of the elytra with an uninterrupted row of large bristle-bearing punctures (rather sparser in the middle part).

..... Genus *Clivina*

Third stria of the elytra with four bristles; eighth stria sharply keeled towards the tip.



- Lateral border of the pronotum lacking between the posterior seta and the peduncle. Middle tibia without spine. Keel along the side of the elytra narrow with bristles only towards the front and rear.

..... Genus *Dyschirius*



Genus *Clivina*

From Joy (1932) and Lindroth (1974)

- 1 Entirely dark brownish black; first elytral interval often reddish. Looking underneath the beetle, the last abdominal segment has quite strong microscopic net-like sculpture, but appears fairly shiny. Length 5.5-6.5 mm.

..... ***Clivina fossor***

Locally common and widespread, on open vegetated ground as long as it is not too dry.



Pronotum dark brownish black, clearly contrasting with the paler elytra. Elytra usually with a darker stripe along the suture and sometimes with a dark mark beyond the middle. Last abdominal segment below with a strongly granulate sculpture making it dull. Length 5.0-5.5 mm.

..... ***Clivina collaris***

Local but widely distributed, in damp places in humus-rich soils e.g. in gardens and sandy river banks



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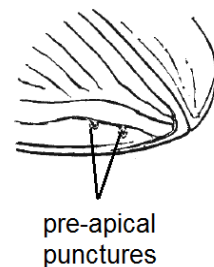
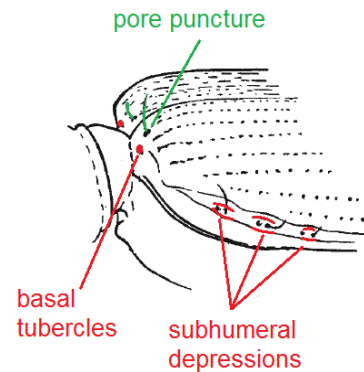
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Genus *Dyschirius*

Small, more or less cylindrical, beetles with a distinct waist between the pronotum and elytra. Front tibiae broad and spiny, adapted for digging, as in *Clivina*. Separated from *Clivina* by smaller size, almost uniform metallic coloration, and by the raised lateral rim of pronotum not being prolonged on to the constricted basal part. Also, the middle tibiae are unarmed.

Punctures bearing bristles along side-margin of elytra are divided into two widely separated groups:

- 1-3 sub-humeral depressions (sometimes absent), each containing 2 granules, the posterior of which carries a bristle;
- 1-3 preapical punctures.



Colour is of little taxonomic importance in this genus. Normally, the upper surface has a more or less pronounced metallic reflection but in most species black and somewhat reddish specimens occur. Males can be distinguished externally only by the somewhat broader terminal segment of the palps.

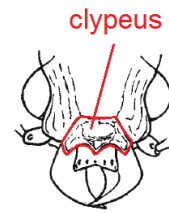
Species of *Dyschirius* live underground and usually dig their burrows in sterile, sandy soil. Since most of the species are fond of staphylinids of the genus *Bledius* as prey, they are often found on river banks. Some are restricted to the sea-shore or other saline habitats. They are most easily captured by splashing their habitat with water.

Many species are difficult to separate and may require high magnifications of about x80.



Key to the UK species of genus *Dyschirius*

- 1 (View head from front) Front margin of the clypeus with a tooth in the middle. Elytra with rounded sides, base with a complete margin.2



Clypeus without a tooth in the middle. Base of elytra margined only in two species and these have narrow, parallel-sided elytra.3



- 2 Entire upper surface dull due to dense and strong microscopic sculpture. Striae of elytra smooth, or almost so. Somewhat shorter, with more rounded sides of elytra, the striae of which are deeper, particularly towards the tip. Legs and base of antennae usually darker. Length 3·5-4·6 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius obscurus***

On fine sand with *Bledius*, usually *B. arenarius*. England: Rye, Sussex? Norfolk. Ireland: Lough Neagh



At least the elytra rather shiny, due to weaker microscopic sculpture though clearly visible on head and pronotum as well as on base and tip of elytra. Striae with distinct punctures, at least towards the front. Usually with a brassy, or sometimes bluish, shine, rarely non-metallic black, or with reddish elytra; base of antennae, mouth-parts and tibiae rather pale. Two dorsal and one pre-apical puncture; no subhumeral depressions. Length 3·5-4·7 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius thoracicus***

On sterile sandy shores of fresh and salt water. Associated with *Bledius arenarius*, *B. talpa* and others. Local but often abundant; widely distributed.



3 Base of elytra margined from shoulder to peduncle. Third interval of the elytra with a single dorsal puncture behind middle; no subhumeral depressions. Body very narrow. (Rare species).4

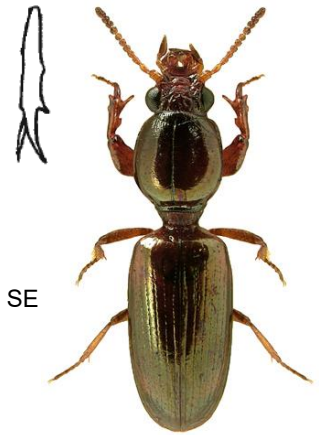
Base of elytra not margined inside shoulder. Third interval of the elytra with 2 or 3 dorsal punctures; at least 1 subhumeral depression.5



- 4 Frons dull due to coarse parallel ridges and punctures. Front tibiae with two small but sharp teeth externally, the comparatively short apical spine only slightly curved. Darkened and faintly bronzed. Front of frons, base of antennae, mouth-parts and nearly the whole of the legs reddish brown. Elytra with 1 preapical puncture. Length 3·0-3·4 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius angustatus***

On slopes of fine sand near water. Associated with small species of *Bledius*. SE England and the Lake District. Eastern Highlands of Scotland. Very rare.



Frons smooth. Front tibiae with no external teeth but with the apical spine long and curved. Black species with the elytra often reddish. Length 4-5 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius extensus***

On sandy coasts, S.E. England: Kent, Sussex, Essex. Very local and rare.



5 Elytra with a single subhumeral depression and 2 punctures before the apex. Front tibiae externally only with tubercle at base of the strong apical spine.6



Elytra with 2 or 3 subhumeral depressions. Front tibiae externally with at least one sharp subapical tooth.8



- 6 Striae on the elytra very strong, virtually without punctures; intervals convex throughout. Mandibles longer and more curved. Metallic reflection faint, elytra often somewhat reddish. Length 4.5-5.2 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius impunctipennis***

In fine sand on the sea-shore. With *Bledius*, usually *B. arenarius*. Local but widely distributed.



Striae of the elytra moderately impressed, distinctly punctured, intervals flat or convex only near the suture.7



- 7 Striae on the elytra distinctly impressed right to the tip and with stronger punctures; third interval with 3 (exceptionally 2) dorsal punctures; base smooth and shiny. More robust species. Length 4·5-5·5 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius nitidus***

Almost confined to the coast. With *Bledius*. England: Dorset and Sussex northwards to Yorkshire; Cambridge, Northampton; Cheshire to Cumbria. Wales: Cardigan Bay. Scotland: West Lowlands. Very local.



Striae on the elytra very fine with faint punctures, which become weaker towards the tip and usually fade all together; third interval with 2 dorsal punctures (none before middle); the sloping base running to the peduncle has a microscopically net-like sculpture. Brassy, rarely bluish, elytra often somewhat reddish; legs quite pale or with femora somewhat darkened. Length 4·0-4·9 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius politus***

On very fine sand, usually sparsely vegetated, e.g. in sandpits; not always near water. Associated with several species of *Bledius*. Local but widely distributed.



- 8 Pronotum with lateral bead shortened, not at all reaching level with the basal bristle. Elytra shorter, more rounded; striae with strong punctures in the front half but then fading towards the apex. Smallest species (length 2.2-3.0 mm.). Metallic shine faint; reddish specimens, particularly with a pale pronotum are not uncommon. Elytra with 3 subhumeral depressions and 2 preapical punctures. This is the only British species with (normally) quite reduced wings.

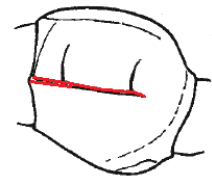
..... ***Dyschirius globosus***

Not fussy; on moist ground in all kinds of open country. Not associated with *Bledius*. Widespread.



thorax from the side

- Lateral bead of pronotum at least reaching basal bristle. Striae of the elytra distinct to the tip.9



- 9 Clypeus with a straight posterior edge. Front tibiae with stronger external teeth. Metallic shine faint, elytra sometimes reddish. Small tubercle present on the base of the elytra as they slope to the peduncle; 3 subhumeral depressions and 2 preapical punctures. Length 3·6-4·5 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius salinus***

On the seashore, in clay rather than sandy substrates and not necessarily with *Bledius*. Widespread.

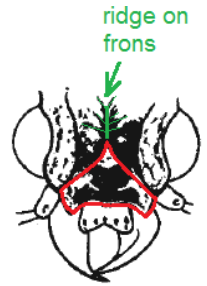


- Posterior edge of clypeus angled.10

clypeus

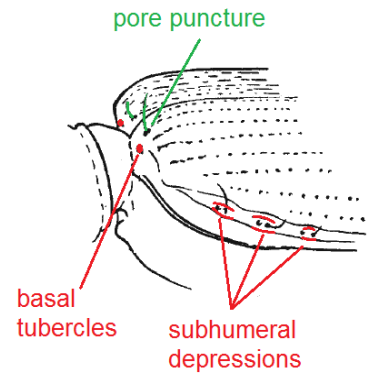


10 Small basal tubercle present on each side at the base of elytra where it slopes to the peduncle. Frons with ridge in the middle at the front forming a continuation of the angle of the clypeus. Pronotum widest at the middle. Metallic shine usually strong, rarely bluish; elytra sometimes reddish. Base of antennae, mouth-parts and legs brownish. Teeth of front tibia quite weak. Elytra with 3 subhumeral depressions and 2 pre-apical punctures. Length 3·4-4·1 mm.



..... ***Dyschirius luedersi***

Usually on clay with some vegetation, most abundant near the shore. Not associated with *Bledius*. England northwards to Suffolk.



Base of elytra without tubercles and with the pore-puncture in a higher position. Frons without a ridge. Pronotum with its greatest width beyond the middle. Base of antennae paler. Length 3·1-3·6 mm.

..... ***Dyschirius aeneus***

On bare spots of mud or clay between vegetation near water, also in sand pits. Not with *Bledius*. Probably widely distributed.

